EXHIBIT A

- 1 purpose of the meeting was?
- 2 A. I mean, like they started it off, of course. I don't
- 3 know the exact wording of it.
- 4 Q. Okay. But I mean, general sense you remember them
- 5 saying the purpose of that is we want to talk about your
- 6 performance or what?
- 7 A. It wasn't -- to what I recall, it was just them, for
- 8 over two hours, saying I wasn't a good K9 handler.
- 9 Q. And Ms. Guerber is an employee of Beaumont and Mack and
- 10 Wilkes are K9 Academy employees, right?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Not employees. Trainers?
- 13 A. Can you repeat them again?
- 14 Q. Mack and Wilkes?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are the trainers?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Isn't it true that you were repeatedly told that no
- decision had been made to terminate your employment?
- 20 A. I don't recall it.
- 21 Q. Okay. It wasn't K9 Academy that decided to terminate
- 22 your employment, was it?
- 23 A. I honestly don't recall.
- 24 Q. You admitted in your Complaint that nobody at K9 Academy
- 25 knew that you had a general anxiety disorder or panic



- disorder before this meeting on August 16, 2022; is that
- 2 correct, isn't it?
- 3 A. On an official statement, I never officially told them,
- 4 but they continuously referred to my anxiety. So yes,
- 5 that is true.
- 6 Q. Well, they referred to you, your stress, right?
- 7 A. And my anxiety.
- 8 Q. They said anxiety?
- 9 A. Verbal, yes.
- 10 Q. Okay. Do you know whether Mr. Mack or Mr. Wilkes are
- 11 qualified to diagnose people with anxiety?
- 12 A. I have no idea if they are or not.
- 13 O. Well, do you know how they knew that you had anxiety?
- 14 A. No. But going off of what I know is that I have to be
- 15 diagnosed by a doctor or a psychiatrist, not by people
- 16 who work at the school.
- 17 O. Sure. Their observations there were that you were
- 18 stressed, correct?
- 19 A. And that I was anxious.
- 20 Q. Okay. But did anybody ever say words to the effect that
- 21 you have an anxiety disorder or a panic disorder?
- 22 A. They said that I have anxiety. They never used the word
- 23 disorder. They said anxiety.
- 24 Q. It's important, so I want to make sure I'm clear. They
- 25 said you have anxiety?



- anxiety. So there is a difference between the two. I
- 2 definitely see it as two different.
- 3 Q. You can be stressed by uncertainty, right?
- 4 A. I mean, I would say anxious by uncertainty. That kind
- of fits in with it better.
- 6 Q. All right. You never told any K9 personnel, including
- 7 Mack or Wilkes, that you had private health issues?
- 8 A. Correct, I did not.
- 9 Q. As far as you know, they didn't have that information
- 10 regarding your general anxiety disorder or your panic
- 11 disorder?
- 12 A. Correct.
- 13 Q. Okay. From what it sounds like, your discussion of
- 14 Mr. Berger, Mr. Macbay and Mr. Teatsworth, they weren't
- 15 the only folks that made observations that you appeared
- 16 anxious?
- 17 A. Correct.
- 18 Q. Now did anybody from K9 Academy -- first of all, back
- 19 up.
- 20 Did you ever ask K9 Academy for any type of
- 21 accommodation?
- 22 A. Not that I can recall.
- 23 Q. Okay. Did you ever ask Beaumont for any kind of
- 24 accommodation?
- 25 A. When it started to heighten up before I had to go on



- 1 Q. So when you needed the leave, you could take it?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. I honestly thought when it was approved things were
- 5 going to get better. I didn't think they were going to
- 6 get worse.
- 7 Q. Is it fair to say at the August 16 meeting that Mr. Mack
- 8 expressed to you his belief that you didn't have the
- 9 skills to be a K9 handler?
- 10 A. That was one of the things that was said in that
- 11 meeting.
- 12 Q. Okay. Do you think he was telling you that because you
- had a disability?
- 14 A. I mean, I could see so because like a lot of the times
- 15 they reference the word anxiety. Referencing the dog,
- 16 how it goes down the leash, things like that. Or they
- 17 are saying the dog is becoming anxious because I'm
- 18 anxious, things like that.
- 19 O. Okay. But we agree that at this August 16 meeting,
- 20 nobody from K9 knew that you had an anxiety disorder or
- 21 a panic disorder, correct?
- 22 A. To my knowledge, yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Would you agree, with me, if you didn't have
- either of those and you just got really worked up about
- being a K9 handler, that that could be a reason to



- 1 Q. So to sum up this little exercise, you have been able to
- identify your own voice on this recording, right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And the voices of Whitney Guerber, Dan Mack and Mark
- Wilkes?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. In your meeting with these folks, did you tell them
- 8 anything that was untrue?
- 9 A. Not that I know of.
- 10 O. Okay.
- 11 A. I always try to tell the truth no matter where I go.
- 12 O. It's a good practice. All right.
- 13 Again, look at your Exhibit 1 which is the
- 14 Complaint, page 28, paragraph 155. I will read 155, so
- 15 we know what it is. "As detailed in the above
- allegations, Tucker, Guerber, Mack and Wilkes illegally,
- 17 maliciously and wrongfully conspired with one another
- with the intent to and for illegal purposes of,
- including but not limited to, revoking Plaintiff's K9
- 20 handler certification and terminating him from his
- 21 employment as a K9 handler."
- 22 My question to you regarding that allegation
- is how do you know that Tucker, Guerber, Mack and Wilkes
- conspired with one another?
- 25 A. Because when I brought up the concern about what was



- 1 happening to Lincoln, all of a sudden I get pulled into
- this office. It's way too close of a timeline for all
- 3 of this to happen. And again, I have never signed
- 4 anything and there is nothing in my employee file.
- 5 O. Okay. And you don't recall the timing though of how
- 6 long between your Complaint and you getting called in on
- 7 August 16, 2022?
- 8 A. If I had to, like I said to you before, maybe three,
- 9 four-ish weeks. Again, I don't know.
- 10 O. Okay. Anything else besides the timing?
- 11 A. Nothing I can think of.
- 12 Q. Okay. Have you come up with an economic damage figure
- ie. how much you have lost in wages and compensation as
- a result of the alleged conduct of my clients?
- 15 A. Offhand, no. But what I do have is I can explain
- 16 certain things like my medical bills. I have to seek
- 17 medical treatment now.
- 18 O. Okay.
- 19 A. Because of my anxiety, it's like tenfold now. Like I
- 20 get scared just even doing the most simple things. I
- 21 don't have the confidence in what I do.
- 22 Q. But I'm talking about wages and benefits. You're
- talking about your non-economic damages. You were
- 24 talking about medical expenses. But do you have a
- 25 figure?



- 1 A. Not offhand, no.
- 2 Q. Okay. Same exhibit starting at paragraph 28. It's
- 3 titled Count 11, intentional infliction of emotional
- 4 distress as to all defendants.
- 5 MS. GORMAN: What page are you on, Jim?
- 6 MR. FETT: 29. Count 11.
- 7 BY MR. FETT:
- 8 Q. If you look at page 29 at the top, it's got paragraph
- 9 158. It says, "Defendants' conduct was extremely
- 10 outrageous and of such character as not to be tolerated
- by a civilized society." Now you didn't write that
- language, did you?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. That's legalese, correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. But you agree with that?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Okay. And what you can summarize, because you have
- 19 given us a lot of testimony today, but if you need to be
- 20 more specific, that's fine. I'm just telling you it's
- okay if you want to generalize. Tell us the conduct
- that was extreme, outrageous and of a character as not
- to be tolerated.
- 24 A. Well, I can refer back to when I asked and asked and
- asked for a peaceful resolution again and again knowing



- 1 how -- because what the recording there doesn't tell you
- 2 is that I was through -- my anxiety was through the roof
- 3 of what was going on. I asked Whitney, let's -- please,
- 4 let's sit down. Let's talk. Let's figure this out.
- 5 Let's come up with a solution.
- I don't care what happens. I just want to get
- 7 back to doing what I want to do, going back to what I
- 8 love to do. Like it just seemed like every time I was
- 9 trying to be that pacifist in the situation, more things
- 10 were happening. They took my dog away. I had to go on
- intermittent leave, then I was suddenly on an
- investigation where I didn't even know I was on an
- investigation until my anxiety peaked to new heights.
- 14 It just was thing after thing after thing.
- 15 I feel that was it was extreme. It was
- outrageous. And I feel like a credible and respectable
- 17 employer would say this is not a way that an employer
- 18 should treat somebody. I was willing, this entire time
- 19 way before this happened, to sit down and talk so we can
- 20 figure out what we can do, but nobody was having it.
- Nobody at K9-ATF, nobody at Beaumont.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. I have it in writing saying I would just want a peaceful
- 24 resolution. That's all I wanted.
- 25 Q. All right. Anything else you want to add?



- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You have got a number of defendants. We are looking at
- Beaumont Hospital, K9 Academy, the LLC, Joseph Tucker,
- Whitney Guerber, Daniel Mack and Mark Wilkes. Those are
- 5 the folks that you have sued that are defendants,
- 6 correct?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. All right. Is there any one of those, whether an
- 9 individual or a corporate entity, that you think is most
- 10 responsible for what occurred as set forth in your
- 11 lawsuit?
- 12 A. Like if one is more responsible than the other, yes.
- 13 Q. I call them bad actors. Who is the biggest bad actor
- 14 here?
- 15 A. K9-ATF because I had no issues over at Beaumont, as I
- said a few times already. I had no issues in my
- 17 employment. I get to K9-ATF, I do my school. If I was
- a bad handler I wouldn't have gotten my certification.
- 19 If I was a bad handler and they passed me anyway, then
- that just shows negligence on their part.
- 21 But I passed through anyway. And nobody said
- 22 anything to Beaumont to where I can say hey, you know
- what, maybe we can go about this. When I started
- 24 noticing things, I bring it up to Beaumont's attention
- 25 thinking they are going to help me. But instead chose

